Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0010] Another class of software, network fault management tools, such as NETCOOL™ ~~NetCool™~~. and NETEXPERT™ ~~NetExpert™~~ report alarms. Alarms are generated when a network element, such as a switch, exceeds a pre-defined threshold. Alarms indicate that a problem exists in the network that requires intervention. As such, it is indicative of a problem that is already occurring.